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5/30/91

The Honorable Lynne V. Cheney
Chairman
National Endowment for the Humanities
1100 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington DC 20506

Dear Madame Chairman:

The following are my responses to Senator Pell's questions that you forwarded to me:

1)The peer review panels are central to the National Endowment for the Humanities because they bring a variety of expert opinion to bear on decisions involving public monies. Peer review panelists make recommendations to the Chairman regarding which of the many applications that come before the NEH are most worthy of public funding.

2)As I understand it, the National Council members do not have the power to "overturn" the decisions of peer review panels; but they may from time to time offer the Chairman advice that differs from that of the panelists. I would see it as my obligation to offer the Chairman different advice if I thought that an application had not received full, fair, and serious attention.

I very much appreciate the opportunity to answer these questions. Should any further elaboration be required, I would be pleased to respond.

Thanks so much for everything.

Sincerely,

